

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1693 seeks to clarify the definition of a fire protection employee. The bill reflects the range of lifesaving activities engaged in by today's fire service, built upon its long tradition of responding to all in need of help. Specifically, today's firefighter, in addition to fire suppression, may also be expected to respond to medical emergencies, hazardous materials events, or even to possible incidents created by weapons of mass destruction.

The issue addressed by H.R. 1693, Mr. Speaker, concerns fire department paramedics trained to fight fires who have prevailed in several civil suits for overtime compensation under the FLSA. The paramedics successfully argued they were not fire protection employees covered by the FLSA exemption since more than 20 percent of their normal shift time was spent engaged in emergency responses rather than firefighting, such as emergency medical calls.

The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to consider these cases, thus exposing city and county governments to compensation liability for unpaid overtime into the millions of dollars. For example, one subdivision I am privileged to represent, Anne Arundel, Maryland, taxpayers are liable for \$3.5 million under a recent FLSA case.

The potential consequences of these cases are serious and far-reaching and could ultimately result in a dramatic increase in the local costs of fire protection to taxpayers nationwide.

This bipartisan bill is supported by the International Association of Firefighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Association of Counties, Labor and Management support this bill as a remedy, as the remedy, for an increasingly serious situation.

Keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1693 only affects those who are trained, prepared and have the legal authority to engage in fire suppression, but also work to save lives in so many other ways. This bill clarifies the law by more precisely defining those duties that should qualify for the firefighter exemption, thereby preserving the intended flexibility afforded to cities and fire departments under the original Fair Labor Standards Act.

On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) for managing the bill on the floor, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), the cochairs of the Congressional Fire Caucus.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1693.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1693.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT SCHOOLS SHOULD USE PHONICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 214, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 214, as amended, on which the yeas and the nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 193, answered "present" 2, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 564]

YEAS—224

Aderholt	Campbell	Emerson
Archer	Canady	English
Armey	Cannon	Everett
Baker	Castle	Ewing
Ballenger	Chabot	Fletcher
Barr	Chambliss	Foley
Barrett (NE)	Chenoweth-Hage	Forbes
Bartlett	Coble	Fossella
Barton	Coburn	Fowler
Bass	Collins	Gallegly
Bateman	Combest	Ganske
Biggert	Cook	Gekas
Bilbray	Cooksey	Gibbons
Bilirakis	Costello	Gilchrest
Billey	Cox	Gillmor
Blunt	Crane	Goode
Boehner	Cubin	Goodlatte
Bonilla	Cunningham	Goodling
Bono	Davis (VA)	Goss
Borski	Deal	Graham
Boswell	DeLay	Granger
Brady (TX)	DeMint	Green (TX)
Bryant	Diaz-Balart	Green (WI)
Burr	Dickey	Greenwood
Burton	Doolittle	Hansen
Buyer	Dreier	Hastings (WA)
Callahan	Duncan	Hayes
Calvert	Dunn	Hayworth
Camp	Ehrlich	Hefley

Herger	Mica	Sherwood
Hill (MT)	Miller (FL)	Shimkus
Hilleary	Miller, Gary	Shows
Hinchey	Mollohan	Shuster
Hobson	Moran (KS)	Simpson
Holden	Morella	Skeen
Horn	Myrick	Smith (MI)
Hostettler	Nethercutt	Smith (NJ)
Hulshof	Ney	Smith (TX)
Hunter	Northup	Souder
Hutchinson	Norwood	Spence
Hyde	Nussle	Stearns
Isakson	Ose	Stenholm
Istook	Packard	Stump
Jenkins	Pease	Sununu
John	Peterson (MN)	Sweeney
Johnson (CT)	Peterson (PA)	Talent
Johnson, Sam	Petri	Tancred
Jones (NC)	Phelps	Tauzin
Kaptur	Pickering	Taylor (MS)
Kasich	Pitts	Taylor (NC)
Kelly	Pombo	Terry
King (NY)	Porter	Thomas
Kingston	Portman	Thornberry
Knollenberg	Pryce (OH)	Thune
Kolbe	Quinn	Tiahrt
Kuykendall	Radanovich	Traficant
LaHood	Rahall	Upton
Largent	Regula	Vitter
Latham	Riley	Walden
LaTourette	Rogan	Walsh
Lazio	Rogers	Wamp
Lewis (CA)	Rohrabacher	Watkins
Lewis (KY)	Ros-Lehtinen	Watts (OK)
Lipinski	Roukema	Waxman
Lucas (OK)	Royce	Weldon (FL)
Maloney (CT)	Ryan (WI)	Weldon (PA)
Manzullo	Ryun (KS)	Weller
McCollum	Salmon	Whitfield
McCrery	Sanford	Wicker
McHugh	Saxton	Wilson
McInnis	Schaffer	Wise
McIntosh	Sensenbrenner	Wolf
McIntyre	Shadegg	Young (AK)
McKeon	Shaw	Young (FL)
Metcalf	Shays	

NAYS—193

Ackerman	Doggett	Kucinich
Allen	Dooley	LaFalce
Andrews	Doyle	Lampson
Baird	Edwards	Lantos
Baldacci	Engel	Lee
Baldwin	Eshoo	Levin
Barcia	Etheridge	Lewis (GA)
Barrett (WI)	Evans	LoBiondo
Becerra	Farr	Lofgren
Bentsen	Fattah	Lowey
Berkley	Filner	Lucas (KY)
Berman	Ford	Luther
Berry	Frank (MA)	Maloney (NY)
Blagojevich	Franks (NJ)	Markey
Blumenauer	Frelinghuysen	Martinez
Boehlert	Frost	Mascara
Bonior	Gejdenson	Matsui
Boucher	Gephardt	McCarthy (MO)
Boyd	Gilman	McCarthy (NY)
Brady (PA)	Gonzalez	McDermott
Brown (FL)	Gordon	McGovern
Brown (OH)	Gutierrez	McKinney
Capps	Gutknecht	McNulty
Capuano	Hall (OH)	Meehan
Cardin	Hall (TX)	Meeks (NY)
Carson	Hastings (FL)	Menendez
Clay	Hill (IN)	Millender
Clayton	Hilliard	McDonald
Clement	Hinojosa	Miller, George
Clyburn	Hoefel	Minge
Condit	Hoekstra	Mink
Conyers	Holt	Moakley
Coyne	Hooley	Moore
Cramer	Hoyer	Moran (VA)
Crowley	Inslee	Murtha
Cummings	Jackson (IL)	Nadler
Danner	Jackson-Lee	Napolitano
Davis (FL)	(TX)	Neal
Davis (IL)	Jefferson	Oberstar
DeFazio	Johnson, E. B.	Oliver
DeGette	Jones (OH)	Ortiz
Delahunt	Kennedy	Owens
DeLauro	Kildee	Pallone
Deutsch	Kilpatrick	Pascarell
Dicks	Kind (WI)	Pastor
Dingell	Kleczka	Paul
Dixon	Klink	Pelosi

Pickett	Schakowsky	Thurman
Pomeroy	Scott	Tierney
Price (NC)	Serrano	Toomey
Ramstad	Sherman	Towns
Rangel	Sisisky	Turner
Reyes	Skelton	Udall (CO)
Reynolds	Slaughter	Udall (NM)
Rivers	Smith (WA)	Velazquez
Rodriguez	Snyder	Vento
Roemer	Spratt	Visclosky
Rothman	Stabenow	Waters
Roybal-Allard	Stark	Watt (NC)
Rush	Strickland	Weiner
Sabo	Stupak	Wexler
Sanchez	Tanner	Weygand
Sanders	Tauscher	Woolsey
Sandlin	Thompson (CA)	Wu
Sawyer	Thompson (MS)	Wynn

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Abercrombie Obey

NOT VOTING—14

Bachus	Kanjorski	Oxley
Bereuter	Larson	Payne
Bishop	Leach	Scarborough
Ehlers	Linder	Sessions
Houghton	Meek (FL)	

□ 1219

Messrs. RAMSTAD, DOGGETT, GILMAN, BALDACCI, PASTOR and FRELINGHUYSEN changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So (two-thirds not having voted in favor thereof) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2528

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2528, the Immigration Reorganization and Reform Act of 1999.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of House Joint Resolution 75 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 75

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Public Law 106-62 is further amended by striking "November 5, 1999" in section 106(c) and inserting in lieu thereof "November 10, 1999". Public Law 106-46 is amended by striking "November 5, 1999" and inserting in lieu thereof "November 10, 1999".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). Pursuant to the order of the

House of today, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. J. Res. 75, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the current continuing resolution, under which the agencies that are funded in the five remaining uncompleted appropriations bills expires tomorrow night. Negotiations on these remaining bills are ongoing. However, I must say that while we are making some progress in our negotiations with the administration, they are going slow but sure. So it appears we will not be able to complete our agreements on these remaining bills for the next several days.

As the CR that we are operating under presently expires at midnight tomorrow night, the joint resolution before the House would extend the provisions of the current CR until November 10. I would have preferred that we would have been able to have completed our work by tomorrow night, but the issues involved require additional time to work out. In light of this situation, I urge all Members to support this extension.

I would say again that we have been spending early mornings, long days, and late nights in negotiation with the representatives from the President's office, and we are making progress. The meetings are and have been constructive, and we do hope that we can finish our business sooner rather than later. I would also point out that this House has done a very good job of getting its appropriations matters considered. This will be the 32nd appropriations measure to be voted on in the House in preparing for fiscal year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 7 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, why are we here? I have been trying to answer that question every time we bring a new continuing resolution to the floor. Yesterday it dawned on me. Yesterday my watch quit running for about the fourth time, and so I finally gave up on it and went and bought a new one, and that brought into clear focus what we are doing here.

Every 7 days we are bringing a continuing resolution to the floor. We

wind up the clock for another 7 days, but it is a clock that does not run. And so we keep coming back here every 7 days, winding up the good old clock, but the hands never move, time does not pass, and we repeat the same arguments over and over again the following week. Sooner or later I would think people would get a little tired of that, but I guess not tired enough yet to do something about it.

We are here now, we have passed three continuing resolutions, we are about to pass a fourth, and we had a meeting last night which took us on a short route to nowhere. And, unfortunately, if that meeting is any indication, we are going to be here for a lot more 7-day periods, and Members are not going to be able to go home and enjoy a Thanksgiving. The 23 Senators who are set to take trips abroad are not going to be able to climb on their airplanes and we are going to be back here grinding the same fine powder into dust.

I think the reason we are here is simply this: This is a Congress that has, for the past year, at the insistence of the majority party, spent almost its entire effort in trying to pretend that we were going to have big enough surpluses that we could afford to pass a giant tax bill that gave 70 percent of the benefits to the wealthiest people in this country. And that got in the way of this Congress' doing anything about Social Security, it got in the way of our doing anything about Medicare, it got in the way of being able to reach reasonable compromises on education.

We stand here in a House that has not been able to complete action on a meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights nor has it been willing to pass a minimum wage bill. And it reminds me of that old gospel song "Drifting Too Far From the Shore." We have been here so long, going through these same motions, that we forget some of the very basic things that we are supposed to be doing when we are here.

Now, what we ought to be doing, if we do not meet any other responsibility, is we ought to be meeting our main responsibility, which is to finish the action necessary to complete a budget. This Congress has done virtually nothing except focus on that question and the tax question for almost a year, and yet we are still here, stuck on second base, with no prospect of being driven home.

I ask why? And as I think about it, I think the reason is that the majority party in this House apparently believes that the main action that is necessary in order to complete action on a budget is to reach a consensus within their own party in the House on the question as to what kind of budget that ought to be. Now, it is important for any party to know who it is and what it is; it is important for any party to have a sense of self and to be able to communicate that to the country. But after